TULSA WORLD

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EATERIES CLOSING

Louis Amayo walks through an empty dining room with a to-go order at Elote Cafe and Catering in downtown Tulsa on Tuesday. The restaurant started serving food to-go only before the mayor's announcement Tuesday limiting restaurants and closing bars. MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

Mayor issues executive order to bars, other venues

By Kevin Canfield and Scott Cherry
Tulsa World

A sweeping executive order issued by Mayor G.T Bynum Tuesday afternoon closed all bars, restaurants and entertainment venues indefinitely in response to the growing spread of COVID-19.

Bars were ordered closed immediately. Restaurants and entertainment venues had to be closed by midnight. Restaurants and bars with takeout and curbside food service can continue to offer those services.

Food courts, cafes, coffee houses and other public places offering on-site, dine-in service must adhere to the same restrictions as restaurants.

Entertainment venues affected by the executive order include gyms, movie theaters, bowling alleys and bingo halls.

The order does not affect grocery stores, pharmacies, food pantries, daycares, crisis shelters or soup kitchens.

"Anywhere that does not have a take out, carry out, or drive-through component is to be closed by midnight," Bynum said during a news conference.

Businesses that violate the executive order will be treated as they would for violating any local ordinance, with the possible penalty forfeiture of their operating license, Bynum said.

"I hate the impact that I think this will have on our city," Bynum said. "That's what makes it such a hard decision. But the impact of spreading this virus and overwhelming our health care system is a worse option.

Bynum said his decision was based on recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help curb the spread of the deadly virus.

"At this time, when we are trying to encourage social distancing and mininimize

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Trump pushes aid for public

President seeks federal checks to help people amid financial crisis

By Lisa Mascaro and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a massive federal effort Tuesday, President Donald Trump asked Congress to speed emergency checks to Americans, enlisted the military for MASH-like hospitals and implored ordinary people — particularly socially active millennials — to do their part by staying home to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

His proposed economic package alone could approach $1 trillion, a rescue initiative not seen since the Great Recession. Trump wants checks sent to the public within two weeks and is urging Congress to pass the eye-popping stimulus package in a matter of days.

As analysts warn that the country is surely entering a recession, the government is grappling with an enormous political undertaking with echoes of the 2008 financial crisis.

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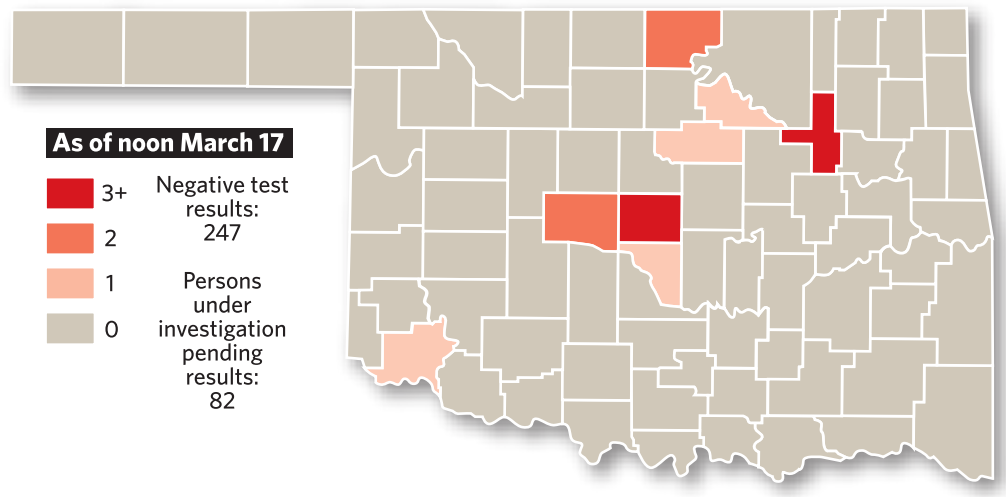
Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Oklahoma by county



State senators, staff tested

Governor Stitt urges residents to help 'flatten the curve'

By Barbara Hoberock
Tulsa World

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Kevin Stitt on Tuesday urged residents to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people.

During a Capitol news conference with health officials to provide an update on COVID-19, the governor also asked residents to avoid discretionary travel and use drive-thru and delivery pick-up services to support local restaurants.

"Do not go inside nursing homes or assisted-living centers," Stitt said. "Instead, call or Facetime your loved ones."

He encouraged businesses to let employees work from home.

"We are trying to 'flatten the curve' to make sure hospitals and health care providers do not get overloaded," Stitt said.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health on Tuesday announced seven new positive cases of COVID-19, bringing the total in the state to 17.

Stitt said he is working with the federal government to increase the supply of testing kits available here.

"As we do expand testing capability, we will find more cases, and the caseload will grow," Health Commissioner Gary Cox said.

Cox said there is no treatment to cure COVID-19, but he said 80% of the cases are expected to be mild, with symptoms that can be managed adequately at home. Further care may be needed for the most serious conditions, he said.

Cox said officials have been discussing surge capacity at medical facilities to ensure

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Helping seniors stay home more important in outbreak

Agencies adapt to protect seniors while still providing services to them

By Corey Jones
Tulsa World

Not so long ago, Ella and Tikki would get to play in a nearby park. Now, Rose Stipe only lets her rescue dogs out in the front yard of her home at her senior living complex in Sand Springs.

Stipe, 64, relies on LIFE Senior Services for most all of her needs. Groceries. Laundry. Doctor's visits. House cleaning. Personal grooming. Mom's Meals drops off 14 meals twice a month, and her home health aide usually puts them away. If she isn't there, Stipe does it herself.

"I definitely wash my hands and everything and do sterilizer," Stipe said Tuesday. "I'm very paranoid."

LIFE Senior Services is among the organizations whose roles helping the elderly remain in their own homes are amplified because of the coronavirus outbreak. Mortality rates are reported to be highest among those ages 60 and up, especially when there are underlying health issues.

The state on Monday released

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SeniorLine

LIFE Senior Services offers SeniorLine, a telephone helpline for answers and solutions to aging challenges, including coronavirus queries.

Seniors, caregivers — or anyone concerned about a senior they know — can call 918-664-9000 (extension 1184) to reach SeniorLine.

COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES, DEATHS

The novel coronavirus COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The number of confirmed cases and deaths can change minute by minute. The figures below will be updated daily.

Tulsa County	State of Oklahoma	United States	Worldwide
Positive cases: 3	Positive cases: 17	Positive cases: 5,204	Positive cases: 190,126
Deaths: 0	Deaths: 0	Deaths: 103	Deaths: 7,517

As of 7 p.m. March 17

Sources: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Tulsa Health Department, The Associated Press

PUZZLE PAGES

The Tulsa World is offering you something new today. With sporting and entertainment events canceled and many of us spending more time in our homes, we're adding two pages of puzzles to help keep you engaged with your morning newspaper.

These puzzles will continue each day in your Tulsa World.

You'll find those in with our Sports coverage, on B2 and B3 of today's edition.

Enjoy!

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LOTTERY
Pick 3: 1-2-9 | Cash 5: 1-6-15-26-32
Mega Millions: 20-27-28-58-59 25 **x3** ($90 million)

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